and presented by 'Appraisal Group' consisting of the Heads of Govrnment of ten member countries during the summit;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand taken by India thereon;

(e) whather Pakistan raised Kashmir issue during the meet; and

(f) if so, what was the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Common-health Finance Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur had recommended to CHOGM that steps should be taken to encourage consideration at a high political level of a number of developmental issues, identified in a Commonwealth Experts Group report entitled 'Change for the Better'. CHOGM had decided upon the steps to promote further consideration of the report and discussion of the issues raised therein.

(c) and (d). A High Level Appraisal Group of ten countries, at the Heads of Government level, deliberated mainly on the Future role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond. The Group identified the pricrities for the Commonwealth in the future and these are reflected in the Harare Defclaration, which was adopted by CHOGM. India was member of the Group and participated actively in the deliberations.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Raw Jute Production

1204. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of raw jute during 1991-92; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target and to make Indian jute competitive in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The production target of raw jute for the year 1991-92 has been fixed at 91 lakh bales of 180 kg. each.

(b) In order to achieve the production target, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Jute Development Programme in 50 selected Districts of 8 majoute/mesta/sunnhemp growing states of Andhra Pradesh Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme Government of India is providing financial assistance on production and distribution of certified/quality seeds of jute, mesta and sunnhemp, plant protection measures, demonstrations of improved technology, construcfion of retting tanks, distribution of fungal culture, etc. Expenditure on various development items are met in full by Government of India.

In order to make Indian Jute competitive in the international market, Govt. have taken several measures including grant of REP @ 30% on exports, extension External Market Assistance @ 10% on FOB value of diversified jute products meant for the export market, implementation of Export Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme to share lossess, if any, on export of jute goods against high volume global contracts, allowing import of specified items of jute machinery at concessional rate of customs duty, implementation of modernisation programme to improve productivity and efficiency etc.

New coal making policy

1205. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose

to announce a new coal making policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the concerned agencies would be consulted before implementation of the policy and the time by which this is likely to be announced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to a new Coal Marketing Policy. A paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of State Governments on the paper have been invited. A decision on the proposals will be taken keeping in view all the suggestions received in this regard.

Setting up of a coal company in Orissa.

1206. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for setting up of a coal company in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (b). The proposal for setting up of a new subsidiary coal company of Coal India Limited in Orissa is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Prediction of Earthquakes

1207. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sub-continent is gradually drifting from ocean towards Asian tract with the result that the Himalayan mountain region is rising and there is possibility of frequent earthquakes in the entire Himalayan region;

(b) whether the earthquake in Uttar Pradesh on October 20, 1991 was due to this natural phenomena;

(c) if so, whether the Government had prior knowledge of the earthquake in U.P.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a danger to Tehri Dam also from earthquakes;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to import the technology from the develooed countries from prediction of earthquakes;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to formulate any earthquake policy;

(i) if so, the details the -reof; and

(j) the measures being contemplated by the Govenemnt for protecting the Himalayan region from earthquakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Earthquake science has not developed to the extent that scientists can forecast or predict earthquakes.

(e) Seismic potential of the region has been taken into consideration for safe designing of the Tehri Dam.